

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) Apparatus for inducing a coughing reflex in a person or animal, said apparatus including at least one ultrasonic transducer adapted to be placed in contact with a region of the neck of the person or animal, and ultrasonic wave generation means for producing ultrasonic vibrations in said transducer of a frequency suitable for at least limited penetration of soft body tissue whereby to stimulate a reflexive coughing response in said person or animal.

12. (New) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said ultrasonic wave generation means comprises an electrical oscillator and wherein said at least one transducer is adapted to produce mechanical vibrations in response to an electrical input from said oscillator.

13. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 and including a transducer array of at least two separate said transducers, said transducers in said array being held in positions and orientations which maximise contact with said neck region.

14. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13 and including a support for said transducers, said transducers being spaced along said support

15. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein said support comprises a flexible mount whereby said transducers are flexibly mounted relative to one another.

16. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein said transducers are mounted to said support by flexible mounting means whereby said transducers are flexibly mounted relative to one another.

17. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 and including adjustment means between said transducers and said support whereby the position of the transducers relative to one another may be adjusted to suit a particular neck.

18. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 and including a main body housing said ultrasonic generation means, said support being mounted to said main body.

19. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 and including an applicator assembly including said support and said transducers, said applicator assembly being detachably mounted to said main body.

20. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said support comprises an arcuate member and wherein said transducers comprise a pair of transducers arranged at spaced apart positions along said member.

21. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 and including contact sensing means for determining the quality of the contact between said at least one transducer and said neck, and contact indicating means for indicating when good contact has been made.

22. (New) A method of inducing a reflexive coughing response in a person or animal, said method including the steps of providing ultrasonic wave generation means for producing ultrasonic vibrations of a frequency suitable for at least limited penetration of soft body tissue, said ultrasonic wave generation means having an active portion, and applying the active portion of said wave generation means to a selected region of the neck of a person or animal, whereby a desired reflexive coughing response may be achieved.

23. (New) Apparatus for inducing a coughing reflex in a person or animal, said apparatus including:

an elongated main body;
an applicator assembly comprising
a transducer support mounted to one end of said main
body, and

at least one ultrasonic transducer on said transducer
support adapted to be placed in contact with a region of the neck
of the person or animal; and

an ultrasonic wave generator in said main body and
connected to said at least one ultrasonic transducer for
producing ultrasonic vibrations in said at least one transducer
of a frequency suitable for at least limited penetration of soft
body tissue whereby to stimulate a reflexive coughing response
in said person or animal.

24. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein
said main body supports an actuation switch for actuating said
ultrasonic wave generator.

25. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein
said actuation switch comprises a two stage switch and wherein
a first stage actuation of said switch causes low-powered
ultrasonic waves to be emitted from said at least one transducer
and wherein a second stage actuation of said switch causes
higher-powered ultrasonic waves to be emitted by said at least
one transducer.

26. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 and
including a contact quality indicator on said transducer support
for indicating contact between said at least one transducer and
said neck.

27. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein
said transducer support carries a pair of ultrasonic transducers
spaced apart along said support.

28. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein
said transducer support comprises an arcuate member having a

concave side and a convex side, said arcuate member having central attachment means on said convex side for mounting said member to said main body and wherein said transducers are arranged symmetrically on opposite sides of said attachment means.

29. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 and including a holding handle on said main body.